

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02

IGA-02 DRC-01 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5161

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN EMBARRASSMENT ON

ARMS PURCHASES AND
PRESS EXPROPRIATION

REF: SANTIAGO 4640

1. EL MERCURIO AUGUST 27 CARRIES TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY PERUVIAN EMBASSY SANTIAGO. CITING RECENT COMMENTARY IN WORLD PRESS (FULLY REPORTED IN SANTIAGO) CONCERNING PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES AND PRESS DEVELOPMENTS, STATEMENT DECLARES:

(A) "PERU IS A COUNTRY OF RECOGNIZED PEACEFUL INCLINATION WHICH HAS NO PENDING BORDER PROBLEMS." ARMS PURCHASES WERE NORMAL REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT. STATEMENT ENDORSED CHILEAN UNDERSEC FON RELS COLLADOS COMMENT AUGUST 2 THAT ACQUISITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS INTERNAL, SOVEREIGN MATTER FOR EACH STATE (REFTEL).

(B) ON PRESS TAKEOVER, STATEMENT CITED REPLY OF PERUVIAN FON
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MIN DE LA FLOR TO OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION INQUIRY TO EFFECT

THAT MEASURE IS "COMPLETELY PERUVIAN" IN NATURE AND IS IN NO WAY RELATED TO "FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES OF FOREIGN STATES." STATEMENT STRESSED PERU "HAS NOT BEEN, IS NOT, AND WILL NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON ANY FOREIGN IDEOLOGY - COMMUNIST OR CAPITALIST" SINCE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION IS BASED ON STRICTLY PERUVIAN CONCEPTS.

(C) WHILE NEWSPAPERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE FREE TO COMMENT, STATEMENT CONCLUDES, THEY SHOULD KEEP IN MIND HARM THAT COULD BE DONE TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. STATEMENT ENDORSED COMMENT OF CHILEAN AMB IN LIMA THAT NO PROBLEMS EXIST BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU, THEN DEPLORED MEDIA SPECULATION ON PURPORTED PERUVIAN BELLICOSE INTENTIONS.

2. COMMENT: SANTIAGO PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE AND CRITICAL COVERAGE TO PRESS EXPROPRIATION BUT HAS BEEN MORE RESTRAINED ON ARMS PURCHASES (REFTTEL). WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH TRIGGERED UNUSUAL PERUVIAN EMBASSY STATEMENT, HOWEVER.
POPPER

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